

Archives for UFO Research - Archives for the Unexplained (AFU)

Annual report 2015

AFU's new name

The standstill over our change of name prevailed throughout the year, largely because no one on our board found the time to work actively on the question.

To recapitulate: In 2014 the County Administration Board (Länsstyrelsen) decided that we could change the name to Archives for the Unexplained *but* the proposed new statutes (for instance with more members of the board) could not be admitted without a so-called legal permutation, sort of a transformation of the AFU foundation.

At a AFU board meeting on December 11, 2015, it was therefore decided that AFU should apply for the permutation and that the fee (8.500 SEK, slightly more than USD 1.000) should come from our long-term savings as *extra ordinary* costs. The question remains to be solved during 2016.



A day in the life at AFU, August 20: Summer sorting project of another new book collection in our 'C' facility.

Economy

The AFU foundation is basically sponsor-driven but our economy relies heavily on monthly

subsidies from **Arbetsförmedlingen (AF)** (the Swedish government's Employment Office).

By contract with AF, the AFU foundation has twelve people on work training through the so-called "phase three" scheme, designed in 2009 by the Swedish right-wing government at that time. For each unemployed person, we take on to work for us, AFU now receives 210 SEK per work day.

This unique system created good financing to hire facilities, purchase computers and digitizing equipment and to arrange work places. Especially for organizations attempting to survive without the luxury of regular funding from "established" society. It also gave us the strength to hire a few fully salaried people with further good subsidies under other government subsidy programs.

This resulted in that AFU for a period had no less than 23 work trainees, salaried persons and volunteers. That activity level proved too much for us and has been slightly reduced. Unfortunately, the generous government subsidy programs have been misused by private "entrepreneurs" with, as we say, "dollar signs in their eyes". This created a stormy political debate in Swedish media.

The left-wing government, elected in September 2014, now aims for a complete stop of the "phase three" subsidies before the next election in 2018. Many idea-based volunteer organizations will be left out in the cold, again, with no financing except from idealistic person's own pocket money.

People who need work training and a place for social training each day would also be left out in the cold.

The question is complicated since many idealistic organizations and "social companies" have become dependent on these subsidies to survive. To sum up, there is great political uncertainty what will happen in this area during 2016-2018.

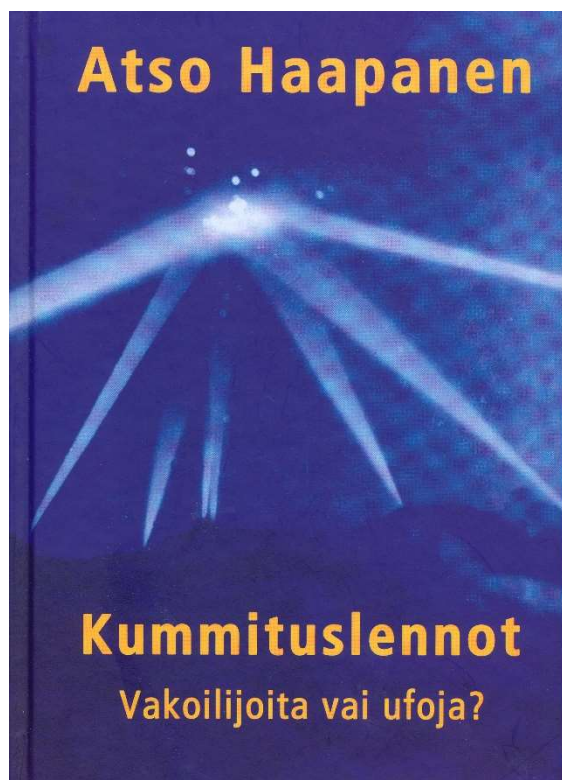
Sponsorships

At the heart, AFU depends on a pool of about 25 sponsors, especially to pay for the rents and electricity for the simple basement facilities where a big part of our collections of books and magazines are kept. In 2015 we had the following direct donations of money (annual sums in SEK):

Arkivverksamma i Väst, 1.000; Jennie Backman, 600; Bernd Bartosch, 550; Håkan Blomqvist, 3.900; Tage Bång, 900; Krister Grafström, 300; Pål

Johansson, 600; Mikael Karlsson, 800; Anders Liljegren, 5.000; Annika Logren, 1.200; Rolf Löfgren, 600; Carl-Anton Mattsson, 1.050; Roger Natanaelsson, 200; Berit Nordin Rydberg, 1.000; Göran Norlén, 4.800; Andreas Ohlsson, 2.400; Hans Peterson, 300; Kenneth Revland, 2.000; Stefan Roslund, 600; Skaraborgs UFO-förening, 427; Clas Svahn 10.400; Acke Svensson, 1.000 and Sven Olov Svensson, 4.900.

Our board member Carl-Anton Mattsson made a special donation of 50.000 SEK (USD 6.200) and yet another one of 5.000 SEK (USD 625) and Clas Svahn had an on-going money collection running for many months, resulting in a total of 21.000 (USD 2.625) to AFU. Provision for all three donations was that they should be set aside for the future, and the sums were therefore invested in share & interest funds to establish a backbone for AFU's future survival. More on another big sponsorship will follow below!



AFU is truly an international, world-wide collection. Here one of the most recent UFO books from Finland donated to us by the publishers, UFO-Finland.

Guests at the archives

About 40 people signed our guestbook this year.

Members of Sällskapet för Parapsykologisk Forskning (SPF), the Swedish society for psychic research, visited us on January 29. They were headed by board members Jan Fjellander och Erik Nissen. Writing in our guest book: "Very inspiring

and impressive. Gives one a very serious impression. Question is how such a collection of books and documents should be used and put into advantage in a larger context?"

A group of students from the KSM branch of study at the local Linköping-Norrköping university (KSM = culture, society, media) paid us a visit on February 11 and was shown around the facilities.

June 9 was a crowded day at the archives. First, Lars-Göran Nilsson, former meteorologist, now journalist for specialized media, was interviewing Clas Svahn and collecting materials to write an article about AFU and UFO-Sweden. This article was published on eight pages of the popular science magazine Allt om Vetenskap, issue number 9 for 2015.

On the same day we also had Andreas Jeppesen and Jesper Frydensbjerg, journalists from the Danish Radio, who interviewed us and listened to old tape recordings of US contactee George Adamski visiting Denmark (in May 1963), that we had just received from the H.C. Petersen files, donated to AFU. Other visitors on this same day were our sponsors Rolf and Birgitta Löfgren, coming to interview board member Håkan Blomqvist.

Greg Eghigian, from Penn State University, but spending his summers in Germany, came (June 22) for another research visit of several days (see the Annual report for 2014). Greg photographed many pages from magazines and documents for his ongoing project to write a sociological thesis on the reception of the UFO theme in the western hemisphere.

Jan and Marianne Tauber visited on June 20. They had been (in the 1970s) members of the Swedish GICOFF UFO group. On August 5 AFU was also visited by Göte Norlander, an active investigator of the north-Swedish submarine "monster" in Lake Storsjön. AFU keeps many files which are of interest to cryptozoologists.

Julia Falk, a student at Södertörn University, prepares to write an essay (next year) on the scientific progression of UFO-Sweden's thinking & work. She came to us on August 21 and will return next year.

Another journalist visit on September 4 was by Lasse Allard and photographer from Sweden's largest evening daily, Aftonbladet. He kindly signed our guest book with these words: "You have the world's coolest jobs and library! Thanks for letting us come. Thrilling".

Another foreign visitor we greeted (on November 27) was photo student Tim Dechent from Bielefeld University in Germany. He spent the day photographing our archives from many angles for an upcoming photo exhibition at the university. He also shares an interest in astronomy and SETI research and planned a similar photo visit at some observatory in Sweden or Germany.

Interested and very well-informed visitors came to us from a project for the unemployed in Finspång, on December 8. One of them wrote in our guest book: "Very impressed by your archive, by its size as well as by the order of it. Continue in the same way."

Second visit from the US

Our second visit from the United States this year happened on September 10-11 when we welcomed Jim Semivan and his wife Deborah Stokes who took the chance to come here after enjoying a cruise on the German rivers. They live in Alexandria, Virginia. Jim & Deb are both experiencers of UFO phenomena and very eager to support the goals of AFU.

Jim Semivan offered his help with writing an "AFU master plan" for the future, and with finding benefactors for our foundation in his own, and others, business circles.



A merry gang at the AFU library. AFU board members Håkan Blomqvist and Anders Liljegren surrounds Jim Semivan.

Jim was, in fact, scouting us out on behalf of his friend Mr. Larry Frascella, who wants to support serious research initiatives connected to UFOs and the wide range of unexplained phenomena. One month later a ground-breaking donation from him was on AFU's bank account.

Larry Frascella sponsorship

The visit by Jim Semivan from the United States just mentioned was the start of a new sponsorship by business man Larry Frascella of Pennsylvania,

USA. Shortly after Jim Semivan's visit here, his recommendation made Mr. Frascella donate no less than 30.000 USD which at that time equaled 243.997 SEK. Just fantastic!



Tim Dechent, photo student from Bielefeld in Germany visited us on November 26 to take pictures from our holdings for an exhibition.

Money, like those provided by Mr. Frascella cannot, reasonably, be used on regular expenditure like monthly rents for facilities, or staff's salaries. In just a few months we could blow away everything on such running costs.

We have decided to save some of Frascella's money for special projects. We do have to find complimentary funding for regular long-term running costs. But how?

Maybe from the European Union culture funds or some unknown corner of Swedish government funding? AFU has become a European-American project so international funding for preservation of the culture and history of UFO & paranormal research should be within reach, except maybe for the predicament of a "unscientific" label often unfairly glued onto "our" subjects.

Again, with our coverage of all angles of the "belief spectrum", from the outright cultish to the extremely skeptical, the contents breath of our archives should give us a good ground for a wide support.

Best would be one, or several, substantial private donations, or will(s), motivated by a serious deep

and personal interest in “our” subjects from the donor(s). Around the world we find wealthy ship-owners or industrialists who invest millions, even billions, in art halls, historical museums and opera houses – why not a paranormal archive, library and museum with focal point on the UFO phenomenon?

This might happen through finding the right person(s) or foundations. Here the whole wide globe is our scene of operation. Our stated goal is finding an economic base of maybe 2-3 million USD to create a very sustainable future for AFU.

We must continue to seek new ideas and contacts to secure a good and safe future for the unique collections we have gathered, and are gathering, from many corners of the globe. This in company with benefactors like Mr. Frascella, but also with possible donors or resources provided by wills or from government funding, crowdfunding, or private trusts.

Especially, we need to find and finance better physical facilities where we can work effectively and we also need a small professional staff of people who *continuously* work on developing the foundation year-after-year. AFU has become “a world heritage” for research, social discussion and debate in the UFO ainternetnd paranormal field. Soon, we may be close to a situation where we may have to say “No thank you” to very interesting donations just because we don’t have the space & resources to care for them.

Cataloguing system?

One destined area for money, like what has now been provided by Mr. Frascella is computer hardware and software. We are already focusing on using our scanners for a good future of our paranormal collection by doing scanning work and providing digital copies of our holdings.

This interest in IT systems was also indicated to be the main point of interest in the discussions we have had with our US sponsorship friends.

We would particularly like to find a good, international web-based software system we could invest in, or hire, for effective and quick cataloguing of all kinds of media and objects. The system should, in the end, be able to produce “result lists” (of books, magazine articles, clippings, videos, pictures) from intelligent searches in our unified holdings catalogue.

Many of our “customers” are international researchers working on the web. Wherever possible, *taking copyright laws and personal integrity issues into account as obstacles*, the

future system should also provide direct links to good digital downloads of any media available, whether book, magazine, article/clipping, picture, correspondence file, voice recording, or video file.



Another storage rented in 2015 to help with the crisis of space. Safe and dry – but not the optimal solution.

What we need is not just a simple “archives inventory program” but something that can handle “a little more” with many kinds of media involved, all inter-mixed into the same search engine. We would want to get away from the present situation where our holdings are spread into about ten different Access or Excel databases, often with unsafe procedures for regular backup.

AFU handles about one or two Internet queries each week, asking for paper or digital copies or searches to be performed in our collections. Making our catalogues more public would enhance and help this service.

Another new library

The new facility co-rented with another society (in 2014) took on a final shape in the spring. At the beginning of 2015 it was decided to create a third library in this, the newest facility that we share since last year.

The many and big book donations from last year had created an impossible situation, particularly in the Hilary Evans library (of parapsychology, behavioral sciences, folklore & religion).

It was therefore decided to move all “B” books, about behavioral sciences, to the outer room of the new co-rented facility. Here we were able to build up a new library.



A rare sight at AFU: Empty shelves. A snap shot during from April 17 when the new shelves had been raised but still with no books inside.

On April 13 a truck from IKEA delivered another 1.000 kilos of (mostly) wood, to build 24 white book shelves for the new library. The shelves were built by co-workers Peter Malmkvist & Mikael Forian in just about a week. Kerstin Eklund, our new part-time salaried librarian, packed and organized the move of the sections.

The move included books classified as psychology, sociology, conspiracies and psychiatry. An obvious “first” to catalogue and to add to the new “white library” (*all shelves are white...*) was a big collection of conspiracy books, including hundreds on the Kennedy assassination theme. We had just received this collection a couple of months before from Peter Rogerson. The new library holds about 2.500 volumes, still with some room for expansion. And, the move created needed new space for new titles within the “old” Evans library.

Other investments 2015

Besides 24 new shelves for the new library AFU invested in --

- a new HP Laserjet 400 colour printer for the headoffice;
- a new Lenove desktop computer;
- two book trolleys for our libraries;
- 100 acid-free archival boxes for large folio documents, and
- 250 cardboard boxes for keeping magazines & organizational collections

Some of these investments were taken from the money donated by Mr. Frascella, while the big part of that money was saved up for future investments.

AFU also rented yet another small storage room to keep some low circulation AFU shop items in good order. The room was equipped with new IKEA shelves. *(Picture on the previous page).*

New AFU book catalogue

A new book catalogue was produced, from the present Access database, about one month into the new year (2016), but displaying our book collections as they were by the end of 2015. The catalogue was the overture of months of work during 2015, that also involved one hard disc crash in November with some lost data that had to be re-constructed by the library’s staff.

The catalogue includes 25.182 different books, booklets & book editions from all over the world.

Acquired & donated collections

Acquisitions from Scandinavia and European countries continued. We spent 56.569 SEK on acquiring new archives & media collections, and paying for the shipping of collections to Sweden.

We attempt to trace and acquire for preservation private collections in paranormal and “scientifically disputed” research areas. Often these collections represent the life’s work of a single person or the (more, or less) complete archival remains from a group’s or organization’s decades of existence. Sometimes the files are in a poor state after years in damp basements or garages.

If not for us, some such collections would have been scattered in small parts to hundreds of paying collectors, or buried on garbage dumps, or burned to ashes.

During 2015 we received and catalogued large and small donations of books, magazines and other materials from:

Anders Berglund (two large boxes of books), Håkan Blomqvist (large parts of his library due to his move to another town), Ole Brænne (books), Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios (retrospective cataloguing), Gordon Creighton (further items found while inventorying FSR files), Mike Dash (books and magazines), Karl-Erik Edris (occult, theosophical library), Hilary Evans (the final batch of books from his estate), Marc Hallet (books and files donated and bought), Ole Henningsen (mags and books), Sune Hjorth (retrospective cataloguing), and Karl-Erik Johansson (items from an estate).

Items also from: Ernst Linder (veteran Swedish ufologist), Carl-Anton Mattsson (books found at the second-hand book store where he works), Gilles Munsch (French SCEAU archives group),

Peter Mörtzell (books), Egon Pettersson (book collection), Bob Rickard (private and CFI books & files), Peter Rogerson (thousands of books from his voluminous library), Susan Salaman (also a large number of books and mags), Ingvar Selin (books), Clas Svahn (a very large number of items), Henry Svensson (veteran Swedish ufologist, estate items transferred to us via Clas Svahn), Göran Söderqvist (many boxes of theosophical books, booklets & magazines), Busty Taylor (books & files on the crop circles), Brinsley le Poer Trench (the Lord Clancarty Library), Ulf & Tatjana Westman (Swedish “new age” & contactee collection).

UK collection tour

The annual tour to the UK, organized by AFU board member Clas Svahn took place between Sept. 11 and Sept. 20. Companions and co-workers on this year’s tour were Carl-Anton Mattsson and Håkan Ekstrand.

The route took them through Denmark and Germany on the downward leg and back home through Belgium. There are no longer any direct UK passenger ferries from Scandinavia, which also explains the need to go via ferry ports on the European continent.

First stop was in Copenhagen where veteran Danish ufologist Per Andersen turned over large parts of his collection to AFU. Per Andersen was active for decades in the Danish SUFOI group and donated his SUFOI work files from that period. Per also gave us a substantial library. For years, he was an active Scandinavian importer and distributor of international literature running his own book shop.



Veteran Danish ufologist Per Andersen turned over large parts of his private collection in Copenhagen while meeting the Swedish team as they passed through Denmark on their way to the Continent and the UK.

The tour throughout Britain had Bob Rickard’s home at its base and included visits to Frances and Alan Copeland and Geoff Ambler (of Contact

International); Maureen Plunkett (wife of veteran ufologist BFSB founder Denis Plunkett, now at a nursery home) & her close family; Valentine Ward (daughter of deceased AFU grand donor Hilary Evans) & her family; John Hanson & Dawn Holloway (authors of a history series of reports on British UFO cases); Omar Fowler (publisher of OVNI magazine); and Staffan Skott (who acted as intermediary for a collection from ufologist Steve Gamble).

The journey continued to Timothy Good (veteran UFO author); John Rimmer (former publisher of Magonia magazine); Peter Rogerson (foremost book reviewer in Magonia); Edwin Joyce (the present editor of FSR); Judith Jafaar (active in BUFORA); Lionel Beer (founder of BUFORA); and Mike Hutchinson (skeptic with a good eye for AFU).



Frances Copeland and Geoff Ambler from the management team of Contact International, publishers of Awareness, donated another big batch of materials to AFU.

We have for years received portions of Belgian researcher Marc Hallet’s collection, against paying for the shipping to Sweden. This year we were offered to acquire Marc’s voluminous & absolutely unique files on the BVM (Blessed Virgin Mary) phenomenon, for which we paid an outright sum, partly a collection of money among AFU friends in Sweden.



September 20: Anders Liljgren with the Marc Hallet files on BVM, George Adamski and the Belgian wave of triangles in the early 1990s. Clas Svahn & Carl-Anton Mattsson have just brought the files to the archives.

Here's a special list of money contributions for the BVM archives of Marc Hallet: Björn Axellie, 50; Berit Bergqvist, 100; Curt Bertilsson, 300; Ulla Burle, 100; Tage Bång, 200; Gert Carlsson, 100; Märta Friberg, 100; Sven-Erik Färnström, 200; Hans Gebhardt, 200; Arne Gjärdman, 300; Roland Gusthage, 200; Liz Haglund, 100; Stefan Holmsten, 600; Jan-Erik Höglund, 500; Jan Christer Jonasson, 200; Mikael Karlsson, 100; Jan Klintmo, 200; Carl-Anton Mattsson, 500; Ejnar Nielsen, 50; Sune Nilsson, 100; Olof Norberg, 500; Andreas Ohlsson, 150; May-Britt Pellving, 100; Bernt Pettersson, 100; Lena Margareta Pettersson, 100; Lisbeth Rosén, 50; Ulrik Rosén, 50; Stefan Roslund, 100; Mats Sandström, 1.000; Hans Sterner, 500; Sven Strömstedt, 100; Clas Svahn, 500; Clas Svahn, sale of picture rights, 3.600; Karin Tegnér, 500; Jens Tellefsen, 100; Börje Turesson, 100; Ronny Törnvall, 200; UFO-Sweden, 2.000; Birgitta Wärdahl, 200; Sonny Öhman, 100 and Rune Österdahl, 100. A total of 14.350 SEK!

UFO-Sweden

In good tradition, UFO-Sweden had one of their regular board meetings at the AFU premises on November 21. Also, during the year, several constellations of UFO-Sweden field investigators visited us for days to use the Swedish report archives, for instance in preparation for the Kolmården field study week, where more than a dozen field investigators performed a "deep dug" for possible new UFO cases in a restricted area.

A press conference on August 4, organized by Clas Svahn, introduced local media to the Kolmården project run by UFO-Sweden between August 11 and August 14. Johan Gustavsson and Katarina Hampusson from the AFU staff took part in the investigation week that managed to collect some 50 reports from the "hot spot" area just to the northeast of Norrköping.



Clas Svahn, for twenty years the chairman of UFO-Sweden, now vice chairman and international director. Primus motor behind AFU's international acquisitions of paranormal collections.

Employees

By way of government subsidies AFU was able to keep a few employees. Leif Åstrand was employed until May 31 when a local government representative refused to prolong his contract with us, pointing to a new rule that had not been revealed to us (or anyone else). This all finally resulted in a lengthy, irritated and extremely time-consuming court case against the AF (Arbetsförmedlingen), finally won by AFU. More on this will follow in the 2016 annual report.

Irene Remberger was employed in our scanning department from February 1 and throughout the year. Katarina Hampusson was employed throughout the year working with the AFU Shop. Her subsidies were prolonged from December. From June 8, Kerstin Eklund was also employed on half-time (50%) in our library, also on subsidies.

From July 1, Johan Gustavsson was an employee at AFU working for UFO-Sweden with their national UFO reporting center and the Swedish report files located with us. Johan is a member of the UFO-Sweden board. The net cost for his employment was paid for by UFO-Sweden.



Johan Gustavsson is a daily user of our files and libraries in his work for UFO-Sweden. Here in our new "white" library of books on behavioral sciences and conspiracies.

During the first months of the year AFU staff's work was largely hampered by a complete breakdown of our two broadband internet connections. This unhappy situation went on for many weeks with dozens of repeated calls to Tele2 and Bredbandsbolaget. The first company had sold its complete "stock of customers" to the latter and tried to transfer all accounts nation-wide which resulted in almost a national crisis, and with the backup of a customer service that was not at all prepared for the storm. We lost much time and pace in our work. AFU was never fully compensated for our losses, for instance items we were not able to put up on our AFU Shop during the period of stop.

Other work training projects

AFU co-operates with the **Aktema** group at the Norrköping Community to keep incapacitated people activated on part time archives' and computer-related jobs. Trainees included Robert, Patrick, Magnus and Fredrik.

2015 was the first time we accepted a young college student, Zirak, for work training during a couple of weeks.

Media & public appearances

AFU's Clas Svahn was interviewed in his home by Emy Krüger for an article published February 18 in the Stockholm area "Mitt i" chain of advert newspapers (Mitt i Kista, Mitt i Järfälla, etc).

On April 23 a press conference was held at the archives here in Norrköping mainly to introduce the new ghost rocket documentary, see below, but also focusing on the archives work on the local plane. This resulted in articles in Folkbladet and Norrköpings Tidningar on April 24, but also interviews on local radio and television news programs. Eventually there was also an article in "Mera Norrköping" on April 28.

The UFO Sweden field investigation project in the Kolmården area (not very far from the archives), and led by AFU & UFO-Sweden employee Johan Gustavsson, generated some press coverage also for the archives' work on August 5 in Norrköpings Tidningar.

Anders Liljegen was interviewed, August 14, about the AFU archives on the local radio channel broadcasting over Norrköping.

Clas Svahn made a large number of public appearances before local societies and in local and national media during the year, promoting AFU.

Adjunct to the AFU board we have a small International Advisory Board (IAB) of persons knowledgeable in the areas of paranormal, archives and the IT world. One of the IAB members is Fortean Times founder Bob Rickard, who created the Charles Fort Institute (CFI), whose collections are now integrated with AFU's. In the August 2015 issue (# 330) of Fortean Times, Bob published a nicely formulated four-page article in support of AFU.

Ghost Rockets project

Anders Liljegen spent a couple of full weeks on the project of uploading and structuring (by date and by case) the mass of official military investigation documents on the 1946 Ghost Rocket wave, to a new web site. Result can be viewed at

www.ghostrockets.se. Translating the documents has been an ongoing project at the archives for a couple of years. The internet site was paid for by the film producers, Michael Cavanagh and Kerstin Übelacker.



ABOVE: A typical year's archival rescue operation. AFU director and chief rescuer Clas Svahn, with the second batch of 300+ boxes outside Bob Rickard's London home in 2013, awaiting shipping to Sweden. BELOW LEFT: When the boxes arrive in Norrköping, AFU director and head librarian Anders Liljegen has to unpack and register their cataloguing. BELOW RIGHT: One of the cataloguing stations in the AFU main office (© AFU).

splendid church of early editions of books by Tillyard Thayer from David Edberg. Twenty years ago, Mike Doh wrote about the \$5 million fund raised by CSOOP (now re-branded as the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry) to build a combined HQ, research centre and library in Amherst, NY - "A London-based British equivalent." Mike added, "combining an archive centre, electronic access to international databases, an exhibition gallery and resources for investigators would... prove a popular attraction and an immensely worthwhile contribution to the knowledge of mankind." Agreed, but after years of trying, I have come to the conclusion that the current climate in the UK makes it unlikely that we will ever find the funds to acquire a suitable property, never mind the annually renewable funding needed to run the place, or pay for any professional staff.

I was almost ready to abandon the whole idea when I learned of the group in Sweden doing exactly what we wanted. Known originally as *Arbetsgrupp för Uplösning* (AFU), they started out running local UFO groups and have evolved into a truly astonishing enterprise. One of their directors, Clas Svahn, has for years conducted a vigorous

A solution was needed and AFU offered us a lifeline

campaign to collect the research files (and other official documents) from many small or defunct UFO groups across Europe and the UK, thereby rescuing material of inestimable value: these include major collections from Hilary Evans, Gordon Creighton, Lionel Beer, Peter Rogerson, Mike Hutchings, Omar Fowler, Janet and Colin Boddy, Jenny Randles, John Rimmer, Lord Clancarty and Timothy Good, just to name a few Brits.

AFU's archiving initiative began in earnest in 1980, and has steadily expanded to the point where it is a serious international repository. Based in Sweden's southern city of Norrköping, it houses a reference library of 30,000 titles; this is 10,000 more than the number of titles

held by the independent London Library when it moved to its present premises in St James's Square in 1868. AFU also has 20,000 periodicals and over half a million news-clippings - a large chunk of which are our own - on 2.2 kilometres of shelving spread over several rented offices. Currently, they have broadened their remit to include forensics, cryptography and postcard research and the scientific and philosophical discussions of anomalous phenomena generally - hence their change of name to Archives for the Unexplained. The archive is purely funded by donations and by some official employment grants. You can learn more about their success and their plans here: www.afu.se/afu2.

In the US, we have also seen MUFON's ambitious *Pendulo Project*, but not much is public knowledge except that they are scanning case files as a priority over periodicals. Also, as mentioned in *FT* 12454: 55 ("Charles Fort's notes liberated at last"), Dr John Bond's World Institute for Scientific Exploration (WISE) - following their digitisation of the entire run of SETI's *Persuit* magazine - successfully made a last-minute rescue of Fort's own database. Apart from two mainly academic organisations



One of the pages in Bob Rickard's AFU article with pictures from AFU's work in the UK and in Norrköping.

Archival co-operation

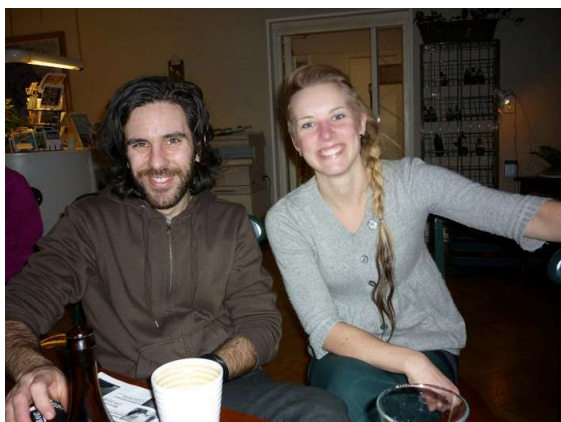
AFU's files from mainly local Swedish UFO societies are catalogued on line at the **National Archives "NAD" database**: sok.riksarkivet.se/nad. Just enter the search word "UFO" and you get a list of almost 150 Swedish UFO activist groups.

AFU is a member of the national FA, Folkrelsernas Arkivförbund, (www.faf.nu) and the regional east-Swedish ÖLFA, Östergötlands Arkivförbund, (www.ostergotlandsarkivforbund.se). FA has some 300 member archives, ÖLFA about 40. The ÖLFA group meets twice each year at one of the local archives to exchange information and for colleagues to meet.

Staff's social get-togethers

More than 100 former and present co-workers at the archives, board members and local sponsors of AFU were invited to a special showing of the film "The Ghost Rockets" at the local Cinema theatre on April 24. About 50 of all people invited came. This was a time for re-union with many of

those who have helped us, during the 1990s and early 2000s, to become what we are now. The film has many scenes recorded at the present facilities, never seen by some former co-workers.



Documentary film makers Michael Cavanagh and Kerstin Übelacker have been following Clas Svahn, UFO-Sweden and the work at AFU for years.



Maria Turdén, Swedish Radio journalist, interviewing Clas Svahn during the press conference at AFU.



Meeting colleagues, October 22. From a visit at the Air Force Museum's library and archive. From left to right: Irene Remberger (AFU employee), Annette Nykvist (archivist at Norrköpings Föreningsarkiv, NFA) and Sofia Svalmark (archivist at the Air Force Museum).

On August 6, AFU staff members gathered for the annual miniature golf tournament, this year won by AFU veteran volunteer Sven Olov Svensson.

On August 20 some twenty members of the staff visited the world-wide touring exhibition "NASA – A Human Adventure" at the local Värmekyrkan exhibition hall. The day before several of us listened to the introductory presentation by former US astronaut Charles Duke.



Christmas approaching, December 11. Annual Xmas dinner, this year with a record number of 28 attendees, and in our own facility with lots of catering food.

The traditional Christmas dinner was held December 11 in our new large facility where we now also have our third library, reported above. We were 28 people – staff and board – who met and enjoyed a very nice traditional Christmas food delivered by one of the best restaurants in town.

The AFU Shop

The AFU Shop was a continued small success, now with more than one hundred customers world-wide. During the year we tax-registered the shop for value-added-tax (VAT). On September 29 Katarina and Anders took part at a VAT information conference to learn some of the ropes in taxation.

At the end of 2015 the shop had more than 6.000 items on line, ranging from cheap paperbacks and long runs of periodicals to the real costly items aimed at the true collector.